THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Goernment is attempting to make subsidies well targeted, efficiently managed and transparent. Government is, moreover, constantly reviewing the burden of subsidy and its implication of fiscal aggregates. It may be recognized that social and economic compulsions would not allow complete abolition of subsidies.

(b) As per the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission, the Government of India has created *the State Fiscal Reform Facility* for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 with an incentive fund of Rs. 10607.72 crores for incentivising States towards reducing fiscal deficits. Under this facility, the States are enjoined to draw up *Medium Term Fiscal reforms Programme* over the reform period. The Government of India has also created a *Debt Swap* mechanism to facilitate States to retire their stock of high cost Government of India loans and advances and thus reduces their non-plan expenditure arising from interest payments.

The Government of Orissa has drawn up their Medium Term Fiscal reforms Programme for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 and has entered into MoLI with the Government of India. A sum of Rs. 77.95 crores was released to Govt, of Orissa from the incentive fund for the year 2000-01. The Goernment of India has also provided a medium term soft loan to Government of Orissa amounting to Rs. 692 crores for meeting the opening balance deficit in the State's account with the RBI, as on 1.4.2002.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to increase the pace of reforms in the power sector. The *Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP)* was initiated in 2000-01 with the objective of giving fillip to reforms *in the distribution sector.* The scheme has been further modified and has been named the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) from the current year with a view to enhance the investment in all the distribution circles all over the country. The modified scheme provides incentives linked to achievement of certain reform-based parameters like reduction in commercial losses and increased revenue realization besides provision for investment in the distribution sector.

The one time scheme for settlement of outstanding dues of SEBs as recommended by the Ahluwalia Committee (2001) is under implementation. This would facilitate settlement of outstanding dues of the SEBs payable of CPSUs as on September 2001. 24 States

have already signed tripartite agreements between the State Government, the Ministry of Power (Government of India) and the RBI for securitisation of outstanding dues through bonds issued to the CPSUs by the respective state governments.

The Electricity Regulatory Commission Act was earlier enacted in 1998 to facilitate setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) at the Central level and State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs) at the State level. SERCs in fourteen states have already issued at least one tariff order for electricity charges. It has been observed that the tariff awards issued by the SERCs have facilitated rationalization of the tariff structure for various consumers particularly in regard to the household and the agricultural sector. The provisional estimates for 2002-03 and projections for 2003-04 indicate a declining trend in the aggregate subsidy incurred on these two categories.

BPL population

† 3063. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those States where number of people living below poverty line is found higher than average number of people living below poverty line at national level during the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the names of such States alongwith the number of people living below poverty line in each of these State;

(c) whether Government have formulated any special development scheme for these States in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. On the basis of data from the 1999-2000 Household Consumer Expenditure Survey collected by NSSO in its 55th Round, twelve States have been identified

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

as having poverty ratio higher than the average national level poverty ratio. These States along with their poverty ratio and number of people living below poverty line are as follows:

S.No.	States	Poverty Ratio (%)	Number of Poor (lakhs)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.47	3.98
2.	Assam	36.09	94.55
3.	Bihar	42.60	425.64
4.	Madhya Pradesh	37.43	298.54
5.	Manipur	28.54	7.19
6.	Meghalaya	33.87	8.23
7.	Nagaland	32.67	5.49
8.	Orissa	47.15	169.09
9.	Sikkim	36.55	2.05
10.	Tripura	34.44	13.02
11.	Uttar Pradesh	31.15	529.89
12.	West Bengal	27.02	213.49
	All India	26.10	2602.50

(c) and (d) Allocation under poverty alleviation programmes is decided on the basis of proportion of poor living in each State. For Bihar and KBK districts of Orissa, special programme has been launched under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

Allocation under DRF

3064. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(e) whether Government have cleared a special development package for Andhra Pradesh under the Development Reform Facility (DRF);

(f) if so, the amount of DRF fudn being allocated to the State since announcement of the package; and

(g) the amount of DRF allocated to other States and the norms prescribed for allotment of DRF funds by the Central Government?